

Top 5 Things Parents Need to Know about the Common Core State Standards

1

World Class Standards

- The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are rigorous, clear, and specific standards at each grade level, building the skills and knowledge students need to be prepared for college-level coursework and the demands of the 21st century workplace.

2

College and Career Ready

- Informed by academic standards in high achieving countries, the CCSS focus on the knowledge and skills students need to succeed in life after high school, in both post-secondary education, and a globally competitive workforce.

3

Standards Are Not Curriculum

- Although the CCSS establish consistent learning goals for all students, they do not define the curriculum that educators will use in the classroom. Curriculum decisions, like which textbooks to purchase and which books students should read, are made locally.

4

Better Standards, Better Assessments

- The Smarter Balanced Assessment, which replaces the WKCE in English Language Arts and math, measures students' application of knowledge and skills and provides more accurate and time-sensitive data to inform teaching and learning.

5

Cost Savings

- Because the standards are more rigorous and aligned with college and career expectations, students are less likely to need to take courses that cost money but don't count toward a degree in college. Also, the college entrance exam is fully funded by the state, so each student will have the opportunity to take the ACT at no cost. Students enter the workforce better equipped to earn a livable wage.

To learn more about the CCSS, visit <http://standards.dpi.wi.gov/families/families>.